

Gambell, St. Lawrence Island

St. Lawrence Island---between Siberia and Alaska in the Bering Sea, about 50 miles from Siberian coast. 100 miles long---10 to 30 miles wide. About 500 inhabitants. Had been four or five villages. Natives of all but two starved to death one bad winter. Two villages left in 1891---Chibuchack and Savoonga. Chibuchack on northwestern promontory. Savoonga about in the middle of northern coast.

1891. Sheldon Jackson builds house at Chibuchack, and schoolhouse.

1894. Mr. and Mrs. Vene C. Gambell, government school teachers who promised Sheldon Jackson they would be missionaries also, went to Chibuchack.

1897. Margaret Gambell born. The Gambells, having gone back to the States because of Margaret's health, were drowned on the return trip. ~~for the birth of the baby~~ Because the child was never strong, they had never taken her to the Island.

Chibuchack is renamed Gambell in their memory. Dr. Sheldon Jackson renamed the place.

1898. Rev. W. T. Doty in charge.

1899. Dr. P.H. Lerrigo. Lumber taken up by steamer to add to schoolhouse.

1901. Dr. and Mrs. Edgar O. Campbell arrive.

1903. Lives of missionaries in danger from invading Siberians. Dr. Cambell injured.

1904. Dr. Cambell requests telephone---trouble with drunken natives.

1905. 17 prepared for baptism and church membership.

1910. Dr. Cambell completes Eskimo primer.

1911. The Campbells leave Gambell.

1912---1925 Work discontinued. Island called "inaccessible"

1925---1934 Spasmodic work by Reformed Episcopalians.

1934. Miss Ann Bannan arrives. Finds about five Christians families.

1940. Miss Bannan brings Rev. Mr. Youel from Fairbanks to baptize converts and organize church. In Gambell he baptized 211, and organized church with 240 charter members. At Savoonga he baptized 180, and organized church with 98 members.

1943. Miss Bannan retires.

1944. Rev. Percy Ipalook takes charge---Leaves because of child's ill health.

1945. Rev. and Mrs. Elmer E. Parker take charge.

Historiaal Data on Gambell, St. Lawrence
Island.

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